



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Progress in Laos as of June 13, 2007

Current Status of Unaccounted-for Americans Lost in the Vietnam War

	<u>Vietnam</u>	<u>Laos</u>	<u>Cambodia</u>	<u>China</u>	<u>Total</u>
Original Missing	1,981	572	83	10	2,646
Repatriated and Identified	<u>616</u>	<u>215</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>863¹</u>
Remaining Missing	1,365	357	54	7	1,783

Of the remaining 357 Americans still unaccounted for in the country of Laos, 41 are in a “no further pursuit” status, meaning that as a result of rigorous investigation we have conclusive evidence the individual perished, but do not believe it possible to recover his remains.

Repatriating and Identifying Remains

- The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) normally conducts five Joint Field Activities (JFAs) per year in Laos.
- Each JFA involves up to 50 U.S. personnel plus their Lao counterparts. Together, they work on investigations and excavations throughout the country for a period of approximately 30 days.
- American remains are transferred to JPAC’s Central Identification Lab in Hawaii for positive identification by forensic anthropologists.
- The 99th JFA began May 6 and continued through June 5, 2007. Recovery teams excavated sites in Savannakhet and Xekong Provinces.
- The 100th JFA is scheduled to begin June 26 and continue through July 31, 2007. Recovery teams are scheduled to excavate sites in Savannakhet and Xekong Provinces.

Resolving “Last Known Alive” Cases

- Of the original 81 individuals “Last Known Alive” in Laos (those who might have survived their loss incidents, but did not return), DoD has determined the fate of 47, with 34 still unresolved.
- Of the 47 whose fate has been determined, the remains of 16 have been located and identified.
- Laos, Vietnam, and U.S. technical experts met in Vientiane in April 2005 to discuss Last Known Alive cases along the Laos – Vietnam border. We continue to pursue leads generated from the meeting.

Research and Investigations

- The U.S. reached an archival research arrangement with the Lao in June 2004 that, for the first time, involves a jointly planned comprehensive effort to locate documents in Lao archives that could contain information regarding Americans missing in Laos during the war. That effort is ongoing.
- The Lao have allowed 79 Vietnamese witnesses to participate in investigating 50 cases in trilateral operations during JFAs in Laos. These witnesses have provided significant information on cases that has led to the excavation of several sites and recoveries associated with as many as 20 individuals.
- The Lao allowed a Joint Archival Research Team (ART) access to the Lao National Film Archives and Video Center. The ART reviewed a total of 18,463 photographs, with eight depicting U.S. POWs and nine depicting U.S. aircraft wreckage. We have correlated 26 photos to 19 cases, 12 of which correlate to nine unresolved cases. The ART has conducted research at the Revolutionary Museum, Military Museum, the Lao News Agency, the Phokadeuath Hall in Savannakhet Province, the National Library and the National University of Laos, and repositories in the provinces of Champasak, Attapu, Salavan, Xekong, Bolikhamxai, Savannakhet, Houaphan, Khammouan, Louang Phrabang, Vientiane and Xiangkhoang.

¹This number now includes the 63 Americans who were returned and/or identified from 1973 – 1975.